

have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067, as expanded by Executive Order 13400, with respect to Sudan.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 28, 2021.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

CATAWBA INDIAN NATION LANDS ACT

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1619) to clarify the status of gaming conducted by the Catawba Indian Nation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1619

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Catawba Indian Nation Lands Act".

SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF CURRENT LAW.

(a) LANDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—Section 14 of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Claims Settlement Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-116) shall only apply to gaming conducted by the Catawba Indian Nation on lands located in South Carolina.

(b) LANDS IN STATES OTHER THAN SOUTH CAROLINA.—Gaming conducted by the Catawba Indian Nation on lands located in States other than South Carolina shall be subject to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) and sections 1166 through 1168 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 3. REAFFIRMATION OF STATUS AND ACTIONS.

(a) RATIFICATION OF TRUST STATUS.—The action taken by the Secretary on July 10, 2020, to place approximately 17 acres of land located in Cleveland County, North Carolina, into trust for the benefit of the Catawba Indian Nation is hereby ratified and confirmed as if that action had been taken under a Federal law specifically authorizing or directing that action.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The land placed into trust for the benefit of the Catawba Indian Nation by the Secretary on July 10, 2020, shall—

(1) be a part of the Catawba Reservation and administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to land held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe; and

(2) be deemed to have been acquired and taken into trust as part of the restoration of lands for an Indian tribe that is restored to Federal recognition pursuant to section 20(b)(1)(B)(iii) of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2719(b)(1)(B)(iii)).

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall—

(1) enlarge, impair, or otherwise affect any right or claim of the Catawba Indian Nation to any land or interest in land in existence before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) affect any water right of the Catawba Indian Nation in existence before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) terminate or limit any access in any way to any right-of-way or right-of-use issued, granted, or permitted before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(4) alter or diminish the right of the Catawba Indian Nation to seek to have additional land taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Catawba Indian Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today is the first day of the month that is dedicated to Native American heritage. As we all know, the United States' historic treatment of our indigenous governments and peoples is fraught with genocide, displacement, termination, and attempts to eliminate Native American culture, language, and identity.

But as a Nation, we have also taken actions to remedy and to build back from that sad history. In 1934, Congress recognized that termination was the wrong policy and passed the Indian Reorganization Act, which recognized Tribal governments and placed most remaining Tribal land into trust. In 1975, we passed the Indian Self-Determination Act, which allowed Tribes to reassert their sovereignty and jurisdiction over their own lands and programs intended to benefit them, but the work is far from done.

Through bipartisan legislation we are debating today, and many other legis-

lative initiatives we will undertake this 117th Congress, we are furthering Tribal recognition and reacquisition of Tribal homelands. We are strengthening the consultation requirements to provide better healthcare to the 70 percent of Native Americans living in urban areas. In the infrastructure bill and Build Back Better Act, we will have historic levels of funding for programs that meet the trust responsibilities owed to Native Americans, promised to them as the United States entered into treaties and took over their historic lands.

Our work today declares that it is not enough to just acknowledge Native American heritage, we must also pass the legislation that protects that heritage and strengthens Tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Majority Leader HOYER for scheduling these bills to be heard today as we begin Native American Heritage month. I especially want to thank Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member WESTERMAN for moving the bills through the Natural Resources Committee.

Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the sponsors of the bills and the committee staff who dedicate themselves to getting things done on behalf of the indigenous peoples of our country.

Madam Speaker, I will turn to H.R. 1619. The Catawba Indian Nation Lands Act, introduced by Representative CLYBURN of South Carolina, will ratify and confirm the Department of the Interior's decision to take into trust 17 acres of land in Cleveland County, North Carolina, for the benefit of the Catawba Indian Nation.

The Catawba Indian Nation is the only Federally-recognized Tribe in South Carolina, and its approximately 3,400 members reside primarily in the Catawba River Valley. The current Catawba Reservation is made up of multiple parcels of land in South Carolina, totaling about 700 acres.

To improve the Tribal economy and meet the needs of Tribal members, the Catawba Nation petitioned the Department of the Interior to place approximately 17 acres of land, known as the Kings Mountain site, into trust in Cleveland County, North Carolina, for gaming and other purposes.

On March 12, 2020, the Department of the Interior accepted the Catawba Indian Nation's request to transfer the land into trust. The Department's decision derived from the terms of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993, which ended the Nation's fight against the State of South Carolina in its assertion of aboriginal land claims.

The Act not only restored the Federal trust relationship between the Nation and the Federal Government, but it also contained various provisions about the trust acquisition of land by the Secretary of the Interior, the use of such land for gaming, and the applicability of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.